

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Standards Committee 4th December 2015

Title

Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

S Booth

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report brings to the consideration of the Standards Committee the Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors, which has been prepared by Commissioner Sir Derek Myers in liaison with other Commissioners, Leaders of political groups, Trade Unions and Senior Officers.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee agree the Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff working to Councillors.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors

Background Papers

Model Code of Conduct

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes as the recommendations will require a change to the council Constitution.

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title: Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors

1. Recommendations

1. That the Committee agree the Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff working to Councillors.

2. Background

- 2.1 The recent reports of Alexis Jay the Corporate Governance Inspection and report and the arrival of the Commissioners have meant that that the Standards regime in the Council needed to be reviewed in order to contribute to the improvement of the Council.
- 2.2 As part of this it was recognised by the Lead Commissioner, Sir Derek Myers that as part of its recovery, Rotherham MBC will gain many new senior staff and many councillors, either new to local government or inexperienced in positions of leadership. These circumstances indicated that a written code covering expectations of councillors and Senior Staff when working together would be advantageous.
- 2.3 As such, Commissioner Sir Derek Myers in liaison with other Commissioners, Leaders of political groups, Trade Unions, and Senior Officers has produced the document attached at Appendix 1, entitled Code for Rotherham MBC: Senior Staff Working to Councillors.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 It is essential that the roles and expectations of both members and Senior Officers working with them are fully understood by both parties. The document at Appendix 1 sets out the principles by which these relationships will be managed, and provides guidance as to the way in which members and officers should behave and conduct themselves, when working together.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Although there currently is a Member/Officer Protocol as part of the Constitution, the Code herewith provides more specificity as to the dynamics of the relationship expected between Senior officers and Members. As such this document, in the way in which it applies to members, will form part of the Code of Conduct for Members

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out as above.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 The decision taken by this Committee will be referred to Council on 9th December 2015. Implementation of the decisions agreed will be with effect from the beginning of the new Municipal year in May 2016.

The Accountable Officer is the Monitoring officer.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 None

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Code at Appendix 1 will form part of the Council's Constitution.

9.0 Human Resources Implications

9.1 The Code and Appendix 1 provides guidance as to roles and expectations in relation to behaviour and conduct for officers and members.

10.0 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11.0 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The code applies equally to all officers and members and co-opted members.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13.0 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a risk that without this Code, understanding as to the respective roles of expectations of officers and members will be unclear.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

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Approvals Obtained from:-

Interim Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring officer
Catherine A. Parkinson

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):-N/A